

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A dishwashing machine comprising:

a dishwashing container in which items to be subjected to the application of a dishwashing liquid thereto are disposed; and

a filter system for cleaning dishwashing liquid, the filter system including a foam volume and the filter system and the dishwashing container being communicated with one another such that at least some of the dishwashing liquid can be discharged from the dishwashing container in association with a washing cycle of the dishwashing machine to the foam volume for passage of the discharged dishwashing liquid through the foam volume, wherein dishwashing residue contained in the dishwashing liquid is at least partially absorbed or retained by the foam volume.

17. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 16, wherein the filter system includes a foam developer operable to mix liquid formed of at least one of the dishwashing liquid and a non-dishwashing liquid with air to produce the foam volume.

18. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 16 and further comprising a filter container is provided for retaining therein the foam volume.

19. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 18, wherein the filter container includes a wall located at a selected one of the bottom of the filter container and another location on the filter container, the wall having openings over at least a portion thereof through which at least one of air and a mixture of liquid and air can be introduced into the filter container.

20. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 18, wherein the filter container includes a wall located at a selected one of the top of the filter container and another location on the filter container, the wall having at least one opening through which the dishwashing liquid can be introduced into the filter container.

21. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 20, wherein at least one opening in the wall for introducing dishwashing liquid into the filter container is configured as a distributor nozzle such that the dishwashing liquid is introduced into the filter container in fine jets.

22. (Currently Amended) The dishwashing machine according to claim 18, wherein the filter container has a first outlet through which the cleaned dishwashing liquid is

discharged from the filter container and a second outlet through which the foam volume is discharged from the filter container.

23. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 18 and further comprising a three-way valve and the filter container has an outlet through which both cleaned dishwashing liquid and the foam volume is discharged from the filter container to the three-way valve via selective positioning of which cleaned dishwashing liquid is conducted back into the dishwashing cycle and discharged foam volume is passed into a waste water pipe of the dishwashing machine.

24. (Currently Amended) The dishwashing machine according to claim 22, wherein ~~the at least one of the first outlet and the second outlet preferably~~ has a variable-height overflow.

25. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 17, wherein dishwashing liquid is supplied to the foam developer by a circulating pump from the dishwashing cycle of the dishwashing machine.

26. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 18, wherein the filter container is disposed between the dishwashing container and an outer wall of the dishwashing machine.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a dishwashing machine, the dishwashing machine including a dishwashing container in which items to be subjected to the application of a dishwashing liquid thereto are disposed and a filter system for cleaning dishwashing liquid, the filter system including a foam volume and the filter system and the dishwashing container being communicated with one another such that at least some of the dishwashing liquid can be discharged from the dishwashing container in association with a washing cycle of the dishwashing machine to the foam volume for passage of the discharged dishwashing liquid through the foam volume, wherein dishwashing residue contained in the dishwashing liquid is at least partially absorbed or retained by the foam volume, the method comprising the steps of:

discharging at least some of the dishwashing liquid from the washing cycle of the dishwashing machine through the foam volume, wherein dishwashing residue contained in the dishwashing liquid is at least partially absorbed or retained by the foam volume;

conducting at least a portion ~~the of~~ cleaned dishwashing liquid back to the washing cycle of the dishwashing machine; and

conducting at least a portion of the foam volume containing the retained dishwashing residue exteriorly of the dishwashing machine.

28. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 27 and further comprising producing the foam volume in a foam developer in which liquid, preferably dishwashing liquid, is mixed with air.

29. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 27 and further comprising a selected one of producing the foam volume in a filter container and introducing the foam volume in a filter container after production of the foam volume.

30. (Currently Amended) The dishwashing machine according to claim 27 and further comprising effecting the passage of the dishwashing liquid to be cleaned through the foam volume via introduction of the dishwashing liquid in the form of fine jets, ~~e.g.~~ by at least one distributor nozzle.